

MD-182
Prince Georges County

The site was quarried for sand and gravel from 1928 until 1977.

Witnesses indicated Mineral Pigments Corporation illegally dumped liquid sludge into a lagoon from the late 1960s until sometime in 1986.

In March 1988, NUS Corporation completed a Site Inspection revealing significant surface water and sediment contamination of the lagoon that received illegal liquid wastes.

In January 1996, EPA designated the site as "No Further Remedial Action Planned."

In 1999, MDE performed a Site Survey and recommended further assessment.

In 2000, MDE performed a State-funded Site Assessment and recommended remedial action and additional investigation.

CONTEE SAND AND GRAVEL
Laurel, Maryland

Site Location

The 293-acre sand and gravel mining site is located on Van Dusen Road, west of Laurel, in Prince George's County, Maryland. Interstate 95 borders along the western portion of the site. Van Dusen Road is the northern boundary and Virginia Manor Road outlines the eastern and southern boundaries of the site.

Site History

The site was quarried for sand and gravel from approximately 1928 until sometime before 1977. Contee Sand and Gravel Company, Inc. conducted the related mining and processing operations at the site until Laurel Sand and Gravel, Inc. purchased the company in July 1982. Currently, Konterra Corporation, formerly Laurel Sand, owns the property. Future plans for the site involve redevelopment for a proposed town center.

Environmental Investigations

The Waste Management Administration (WAS), formerly part of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, became aware of possible unpermitted disposal of hazardous waste in 1984 through a citizen's complaint of tanker trucks disposing liquids into an on-site lagoon. A Prince George's County Health Department inspector confirmed to WAS that in November 1984 and in May 1986, wastes from nearby Mineral Pigments Corporation had been dumped into lagoons on the site. Two WAS employees also indicated they had witnessed tanker trucks from Mineral Pigments Corporation emptying liquid wastes into lagoons on the site in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

WAS personnel visited the site three times in 1986. Extensive nuisance dumping was observed. Scattered piles of roofing shingles, concrete and asphalt slabs, building materials, tires, glass, scrapped wood, junked automobiles, rusted empty drums, household junk and garbage was evident throughout the site, along with fresh truck tracks on the haul roads. Surface water samples from on-site ponds and an intermittent stream and soil samples from an apparent landfilled area were collected. Lead was detected at 1,599 mg/kg in a sediment sample collected from the northernmost lagoon.

The NUS Corporation, under contract to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), completed a Site Inspection in March 1988 to investigate the unregulated disposal of wastewater at the site by the Mineral Pigments Corporation. Surface water and sediment samples were obtained from one of the four inactive flocculent lagoons and the northernmost lagoon where illegal dumping was believed to have occurred. Sediment samples from the northernmost lagoon revealed significant levels of chromium (up to 13,900 mg/kg), lead (up to 15,300 mg/kg), zinc (up to 6,450 mg/kg), and cyanide (up to 267 mg/kg).

In January 1996, EPA designated the site as "No Further Remedial Action Planned."

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) conducted a Site Survey in 1999. The Survey concluded that additional work was required to delineate the extent of contamination and determine if a removal or other remedial action is required.

Current Status

MDE conducted a State-funded Site Assessment in February 2000. The Site Assessment determined that additional investigation and remedial action is necessary at the site.

Contact

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